

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SYDNEY 02304 281212Z

53

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 OC-06 CCO-00 DRC-01 /076 W

----- 089651

R 270745Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4879

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS SYDNEY 2304

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 2304 VICE 2704)

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: ETRN,PINS, AS

SUBJ: SYDNEY AIRPORT CLOSURE

1. SYDNEY AIRPORT,WHICH HAS BEEN TROUBLED FOR PAST TWO WEEKS BY PROFESSIONAL RADIO OPERATORS STRIKE, FINALLY CLOSED COMPLETELY THIS AFTERNOON FOLLOWING THE BREAKDOWN OF THE LAST NON-DIRECTIONAL BEACON. SINCE RADIO OPERATORS STRIKE BEGAN, AIRPORT HAS BEEN OPERATING ON A PARTIAL BASIS. ON RAINY DAYS OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN MINIMAL BUT DURING LAST FEW DAYS OF GOOD WEATHER OUTGOING DEPARTURES HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY NORMAL AND AIRPORT HAS HANDLED UP TO SIX ARRIVALS PER HOUR. BOTH PAN AMERICAN AND AMERICAN AIRLINES HAVE SO FAR BEEN FORTUNATE IN MAINTAINING THEIR SCHEDULES WITH MINIMUM DISLOCATION ALTHOUGH A FEW FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN REROUTED TO MELBOURNE OR BRISBANE.

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PAGE 02 SYDNEY 02304 281212Z

WM HOWEVER WITH THE BREAKDOWN OF THE LAST BEACON,

AIRPORT IS DEFINITELY CLOSED PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. WHILE REPAIR OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS WOULD APPARENTLY NOT REPEAT NOT BE DIFFICULT, THE STRIKE WORKERS SO FAR REFUSE TO MAKE REPAIRS. UTILIZATION OF MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL TO MAKE REPAIRS WOULD RESULT IN EXPANDED SYMPATHY STRIKES. ON THE OTHER HAND, I UNDERSTAND THAT FOLLOWING THE APPARENTLY UNPRODUCTIVE MEETING IN CANBERRA YESTERDAY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD AND THE UNION, A NEW MEETING IS UNDERWAY AT THE PRESENT TIME IN SYDNEY. THERE IS AS YET NO INDICATION OF THE OUTLINE THAT ANY POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT MIGHT TAKE.
HANNAH

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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